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## Lab members participate in endurance competition

*by J. Rich Garcia, Directed Energy Directorate*

**MAUI, HAWAII** — Two Air Force Research Laboratory people participated in the international endurance competition known as Nissan Xterra World Championship in Maui, Hawaii Oct. 24.

Capt. James F. Roche and Ronald J. Lambert from AFRL's Directed Energy Directorate were among the 400 athletes worldwide qualifying for the event that starts with a 1.5-kilometer rough water swim (nearly a mile). That was followed by a 30-kilometer mountain bike ride (about 18 ½ miles) that included more than 2,500 feet of climbing and descending. The race ended with an 11-kilometer trail run (nearly 7 miles) that traversed from deep sand to uneven paths littered with sharp lava rocks.

The two qualified for Xterra from the "at large" pool registration, meaning that they were picked from a limited number of slots open to the public.

Roche and Lambert wore Air Force Triathlon uniforms provided by the Air Force Sports Agency. "If we recruit just one person by wearing the Air Force uniforms, then that would be an incredible bonus," Roche said prior to the competition.

Both have completed other triathlons in past years, Lambert in Arizona where he lived previously. For Roche, his interest is more recent, having been introduced to triathlons a couple of years ago by a fellow Air Force officer.

As in past years, the competition is slated to be videotaped and will be televised after the Superbowl.

Both individuals work at the Directed Energy Directorate's Maui facilities, which include one of the Department of Defense's handfuls of supercomputing centers and an optical facility atop Maui's 10,000-foot-high volcanic mountain Haleakala. There, the directorate operates the largest telescope in the Defense Department. @